SAC ACCREDITATION

NSACA Accreditation and their requirements…are they for you?

FAQ ABOUT ARQ & ACCREDITATION

- What is ARQ?
  - Advancing and Recognizing Quality
    - 3 step process to improve quality and apply for accreditation
- How does my program get Accredited?
  - 1. Purchase NSACA standards
  - 2. Purchase Self Study and Accreditation Kit
  - 3. Apply for NSACA accreditation

FAQ ABOUT ARQ & ACCREDITATION

- How can I use the Standards to assess my program?
  - Read and become familiar with standards and follow them
  - Identify Standards
    - 36 keys of quality organized into 6 categories
      - (1) Human relationships, (2) Indoor Environment, (3) Outdoor Environment, (4) Activities, (5) Safety, Health and Nutrition, and (6) Administration ***[note the similarities to the SAC Inspection]***

FAQ ABOUT ARQ & ACCREDITATION

- Using standards to assess my program continued
  - Discuss with staff whether to focus on targeted improvements or begin self-study process
  - Remember the goal is to provide programs with necessary tools to improve the quality of care provided
- How do I purchase standards?
  - Contact NSACA at (617) 298-5012

FAQ ABOUT ARQ & ACCREDITATION

- What is the Self-Study Process about?
  - An internal program process that allows you to evaluate your program and move through the improvement process at your own pace
  - This process normally takes 6-12 months to complete
  - Upon completion of the self-study with improvements implemented you can apply for NSACA Accreditation

FAQ ABOUT ARQ & ACCREDITATION

- What does it cost for accreditation?
  - $15.00 to purchase the standards
  - $150.00 for the ARQ Kit
  - $750.00 for the Endorsement Visit
    - ($350.00 additional if deferred)
- How long are you accredited for?
  - Three years
    - re-accreditation fee has not yet been determined

FAQ ABOUT ARQ & ACCREDITATION

- What if I have multiple sites to accredit?
  - Each site must go through the self-study and improvement programs
  - Each site must apply for accreditation separately
    - This requires each site to go through all the previously stated steps
    - This means each site pays the fees listed on previous slide

FAQ ABOUT ARQ & ACCREDITATION

- How long does the accreditation process take?
  - You determine your own timeline, after working with the standards & ARQ for 6-12 months
- How many staff hours are required to complete the process?
  - The director should plan on spending 10 hours a month on the ARQ process
    - staff about 3 extra hours per month

FAQ ABOUT ARQ & ACCREDITATION

- Are there minimal educational requirements for staff to meet accreditation status?
  - Educational requirement is not absolute, emphasis is placed on:
    - in service training
    - staff orientation
    - supervision
    - evaluation

FAQ ABOUT ARQ & ACCREDITATION

- Is the summer program included in the accreditation?
  - Yes - If they are a component for a year-round school-age program
- Who do I contact with additional questions?
  - The National School-Age Care Alliance
    1137 Washington Street, Boston MA 02124
  - (617) 298-5012
  - www.nsaca.org or email: staff@nsaca.org